Reduction of staff in SAIL

128. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is looking to further rationalize its work-force of 1.2 lakh by around 15 per cent thereby 20,000 workers are likely to be less on its rolls;

(b) whether the retiring staff will be provided jobs, if so, by when;

(c) whether reduction in staff will help SAIL in bringing down cost of expansion closer to the originally estimated target of Rs.54,000 crore;

(d) whether SAIL will be able to achieve increase in its capacity of 26 MT per annum by 2011; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is a Navratna Company with manpower strength of 1,19,358 as on 01.10.2009. With a view to increase competitiveness and productivity of SAIL, rationalization of manpower has been a continuing focus area. With rationalization of manpower, several systemic changes such as cluster system of working, flexibility in deployment, automated working, adoption of best practices have been fostered thereby leading to improved efficiency and better work culture. However, there has been no retrenchment of employees.

(b) There is no policy in SAIL for providing jobs to the retiring staff.

(c) to (e) There is no significant co-relation between manpower rationalization and the estimated cost of expansion projects. The present modernisation and expansion plan of SAIL envisages increase in hot metal production from 14.6 million tonnes per annum to 23.46 million tonnes per annum in Phase-I to be completed by 2012-13 at an indicative investment of Rs.59,905 crore. Subsequently, further increase in the production of hot metal to 26.18 million tonnes per annum would be taken up in Phase-II depending upon the market situation.

New rail line from Ghanauli to Baddi

129. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to lay a new rail line from Ghanauli to Baddi and a survey in this regard has been done;

(b) if so, whether Ghanauli-Baddi new rail line project has been sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the current status of the proposal alongwith the time by when the proposal of Ghanauli-Baddi rail line project is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new line from Ghanauli to Baddi has been completed and survey report is under finalization by Northern Railway. Further decision regarding taking up of the project would be taken based on the results of the survey, once the survey report is received and examined in the Ministry.

Rail accident near Mathura

130. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casualties due to an accident which occurred on 21st October, 2009 near Mathura where Goa Sampark Kranti Express collided with Mewar Express from the back end side which was standing few metres away from Bajwa Bridge at Bhooteshwar Station;

(b) whether Government has ordered a CBI inquiry in this rail accident;

(c) the amount of compensation declared by her Ministry to the family members of the deceased and injured in this rail accident; and

(d) whether the compensation amount has been given to the family members of the deceased and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) In this accident 23 persons lost their lives, 15 were grievously injured and 9 others sustained simple injuries. Inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle has been ordered to establish the cause and the responsibility behind this accident. Central Bureau of Investigation has also been requested to take up investigation of the sequence of events leading to this unfortunate accident and after considering all the police cases registered in this matter to unravel the truth.

(c) and (d) An ex-gratia amount of Rs.5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased passenger, Rs. 1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs. 10,000 to each simple injured passenger has been declared. Besides this, they are also entitled to claim compensation. Compensation is paid only after a claim is filed before the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. No compensation claim has been filed so far in Railway Claims Tribunal for this accident.

Storage facility for agro products

†131. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agro products get wasted on a large scale due to lack of cold storages;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi